

Chapter 8: Public Involvement

A. Agency Coordination

This section discusses consultation and coordination that occurred during preparation of this document. This includes contacts made during development of the proposed action, other alternatives considered, and writing of the EA. Letters were sent to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and Dallas Water Utilities asking to participate in a workshop to discuss alternatives for the EA. The workshop was held on June 28, 2004. Copies of agency coordination letters are presented in Appendix I. A separate coordination meeting was also held with USFWS in June 2004.

In addition, during the 45-day public review formal and informal coordination will be continued with the following agencies:

- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6 Office
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

B. Public Workshops

Letters were sent to cities and counties that have interests in Grapevine and Lewisville Lakes requesting their participation in a workshop to assist in developing alternatives for the EA. A meeting with 18 people was held on April 7, 2004 and minutes from that meeting are located in Appendix K.

Letters were also sent to local Homeowner Associations on May 7, 2004 inviting their participation in workshops for developing alternatives for the mowing, underbrushing, and access path guidelines at Grapevine and Lewisville Lakes. A total of five workshops were held with Homeowner Associations and other groups. Meeting minutes from these workshops are also included in Appendix K.

In general, comments received during the workshops can be placed into four main categories. 1) Public Safety concerns related to children, undesirable (poisonous) vegetation, snakes, and predators. 2) Concerns relating to fire. 3) Concerns relating to EA distribution, Project Delivery Team, current permits, and process. 4) Concerns relating to erosion/water quality.

C. Public Information and Review

In February 2004, USACE issued a news release stating that it was going to prepare an EA for the revision of the mowing, underbrushing, and access path guidelines at Lewisville and Grapevine Lakes to be published in July 2004. In July 2004, USACE issued a second news release extending the publish date to October 2004 (Appendix J).

On May 11, 2004 USACE sent letters to all members of Fort Worth District's Environmental and Recreation Advisory Committee (ENRAC) list. The letter included copies of the existing mowing, underbrushing and access path guidelines and asked members to provide their comments related to modifying the existing guidelines.

USACE received over 30 letters from adjacent landowners or concerned citizens during the production of the EA. Comments reiterated the concerns covered in the public meetings and covered/supported the full spectrum of the alternatives considered in the EA. Letters were received requesting that USACE allow no mowing on Federal property and letters were received requesting to mow everything to the shoreline.

The draft version of this document is available for public review at the Grapevine and Lewisville Lake Project Offices and the Lewisville and Grapevine Public Libraries. In accordance with NEPA, a 45-day public review period of the draft EA will be provided via a Notice of Availability in the local newspapers and a local project mailing. Public comments and responses to comments are presented in Appendix J of this document.